



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Budget and Finance Committee approves the  
Navajo Nation Fiscal Year 2014 comprehensive budget**

**TOHAJIILEE, N.M.** – On Monday, the Budget and Finance Committee approved the Navajo Nation FY2014 comprehensive budget, including proposed financial plans from the executive, legislative, and judicial branches, as well as fixed costs and capital project budgets.

“As you are well aware, this is the 2014 budget we have had several hearings for and we are almost at the end of this grueling process to get where we are at today,” said BFC chair Council Delegate LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse’Daa’kaa, Upper Fruitland).

The BFC is tasked with reviewing the proposed budgets from all branches of the Navajo government with the aid of the Office of Management and Budget, Office of the Controller, Department of Justice, and the Legislative Counsel.

“I have a number of amendments proposed for this legislation, but the intentions are to clean up and strengthen the language in the comprehensive budget, as well as add Conditions of Appropriations to a few more areas,” said Delegate Bates.

Delegate Bates recommended three amendments to the budgets, which included corrections and additional language to the legislation, COA’s, and the approval of carry-overs for the Navajo Nation Gaming Regulatory Office.

In regards to COA’s, OMB is responsible for monitoring the COA’s to ensure compliance and OOC imposes the sanctions.

“A lot depends on the way COA’s are written,” said executive director of OMB Dominic Beyal. “Sometimes the language is too general, too vague, non-specific, does not include time frames, and so forth.”

Beyal stated that the inconsistencies in the language are difficult for OMB and OOC to enforce, while recommending that COA’s be strengthened in the future to ensure compliance by all departments.

At the conclusion of the discussion, BFC vice chair Council Delegate Jonathan Nez (Shonto, Navajo Mountain, Oljato, Ts'ah bii Kin) commended the committee and aiding parties for the completion of the FY2014 comprehensive budget.

BFC voted 3-0 to pass Legislation No. 0247-13. The legislation now goes to the Naabik'íyátí Committee for consideration.

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